



RESOLUTION to Enhance Federal Cooperative Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Program

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and historically the most productive estuary in the world, and

WHEREAS, the federal, state, and local governments and citizens of the watershed have worked in partnership to stop the decline and accelerate the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay for over 20 years, and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Program is regarded as a national and international model for managing a complex ecosystem, and

WHEREAS, federal agencies have a unique and critical role to play in support of restoration and conservation programs and activities in the watershed, and

WHEREAS, federal agencies have entered into individual agreements in support of the Chesapeake Bay Program, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to enhance federal cooperation for monitoring, management, conservation, and restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in order to meet Chesapeake ecosystem protection and restoration goals, and

WHEREAS, in August 2004 the President issued an Executive Order to federal agencies that oversee environmental and natural resource policies and programs to promote cooperative conservation in collaboration with states, local governments, tribes and individuals.



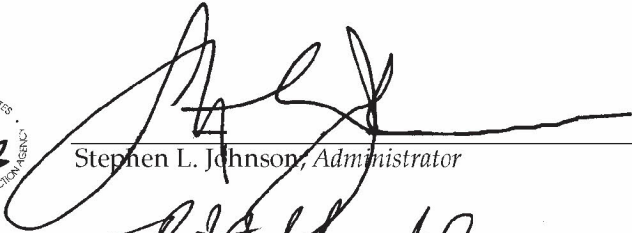
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the federal agencies rededicate themselves to cooperative conservation in support of the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership and will:


- ❖ Strengthen shared goals and performance measures within mutual strategic areas of Bay restoration under the *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement*.
- ❖ Cooperate with the “Chesapeake Bay Watershed Assistance Network” to provide resource managers, local governments, watershed associations and landowners with more effective access to appropriate programs of Federal and state agencies, in order to accelerate restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.
- ❖ Convene an annual meeting of federal agency representatives to advise the Chesapeake Executive Council on federal support of the Bay Program, to identify restoration, management or monitoring initiatives of mutual federal interest, and to identify geographic areas of targeted action.
- ❖ Broaden cooperative conservation activities with states, local governments, communities, private for-profit and non-profit organizations, and citizens.
- ❖ Improve communication among agencies and constituencies, and enhance and integrate public and private watershed stewardship.


DATE: October 7, 2005

FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY




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FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE




Meryn Carlson, Deputy Under Secretary for
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FOR THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE




Kent Connaughton, Associate Deputy Chief, State and
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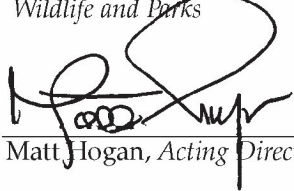
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR




Paul Hoffman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish,
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FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



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